

# State Agencies Cooperate to Reduce Deer Herd and Feed Indiana's Hungry

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DNR director.

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J. David Donahue, Commissioner Indiana Department of Correction.

Indiana's Department of Natural Resources and Department of Correction are jointly initiating a pilot program to help further manage deer populations in 10 southeastern Indiana counties and to provide valuable job training for offenders.

Over the past several years, Indiana has seen a steady increase in the size of its deer herd. The DNR's best measurement tools for herd size, the annual deer harvest through hunting and reported deer-vehicle accidents, are both trending upward for the past few years.

In 2004 Indiana hunters harvested 123,058 deer, a 15% increase over the 2003 hunting season.

The Indiana DNR has recognized the need to stop the growth of Indiana's deer herd. Harvest restrictions for antlerless deer placed on hunters have been liberalized for the current deer season and bow hunters are allowed to use bonus antlerless permits during archery season. While these represent significant efforts to better manage the deer population, the DNR wanted to look for some additional unique ways to increase the harvest of antlerless

deer.

The DNR and DOC have found that unique program. Based on a similar effort in Iowa, hunters in and around the counties of Clark, Henry, Washington, Harrison, Floyd, Scott, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ohio, and Dearborn, will have the opportunity to donate an antlerless deer to the Indiana DOC via one of the processors listed below. This pilot program will run on November 12 and 13. Processors will not accept deer after that first weekend of firearms season. In exchange for the donation, the hunter will receive a coupon from the DNR for a replacement antlerless deer license at a reduced price of \$14.00. The DOC will collect the deer and process the deer as part of an offender training initiative.

As part of this pilot program, all of the processed venison will be donated to the FIsH (Feeding Indiana's Hungry) initiative. FIsH is a public-private partnership that links hunger service providers, food producers, and processors from around the state. The Daniels' administration, through a proclamation by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman made this past National Hunger Awareness Day, has put its support behind this important effort. More information about FIsH can be found at their website, <http://www.feedingindianashungry.org>.

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"This is a great opportunity for our inmates to learn the skill of meat processing and to give back to our local communities," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of Indiana Department of Correction.

"Interagency cooperative efforts is something that Governor Daniels continues to emphasize," added Donahue.

Visit the DNR Web page

[www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hunting1.htm](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/huntguide1/hunting1.htm) for more information on liberalized Indiana Deer Reduction County bag limits.

The designated deer processors participating in the program are:

**Clark County**

Abe's Processing  
618 Beagle Club Road  
Underwood, IN 47177  
812-294-4671

**Dearborn County**

Saletin Orchards  
10514 Chesterville Road  
Moore's Hill, IN 47032  
812-744-5786

**Floyd County**

Kenny Roberts  
2953 Corydon Pike  
New Albany, IN 47150  
812-945-3062

**Henry County**

Marsh Deer Processing  
8820 West US 36  
Middletown, IN 47356  
765-779-4353

**Harrison County**

Country Tyme Meat Processors  
420 Higdon Street  
Corydon, IN  
812-738-0175

**Jefferson County**

Schafer's Deer Processing  
2904 N. SR #7  
Madison, IN 47250  
812-265-5337

**Ohio County**

Wild Eats Deer Processing  
4431 Hartford Pike  
Aurora, IN 47001  
812-926-3368

**Switzerland County**

Old School Custom Processing  
217 Brushy Fork Road  
Canaan, IN 47224  
812-667-6689

**Scott County**

Barrett Meat Processing

696 N. Shea Road  
Scottsburg, IN 47170  
812-889-2820

**Washington County**  
Morris McDonald  
5086 S. SR 60  
Pekin, IN 47165  
812-967-2545

### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.